



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phil Steele or Phil.Steele@noaa.gov  
727/570/5305, FAX 727/570-5583  
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

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## SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

### FINAL RULE REVISES ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR GULF CHARTER VESSEL/HEADBOAT MORATORIUM PERMIT

NOAA Fisheries announces the publication of a final rule to revise, consistent with the intent of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, one of the eligibility criteria for obtaining a charter vessel/headboat moratorium permit for the Gulf reef fish or Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fisheries. The effective date of the final rule is June 16, 2003.

This final rule will:

- Remove the requirement to have had a valid permit on the effective date (July 29, 2002) of the final rule that implemented the original moratorium, thereby making the eligibility criterion less restrictive;
- Reopen the application process for obtaining Gulf charter vessel/headboat moratorium permits and extend the applicable deadlines; a qualified applicant who desires a charter vessel/headboat permit for the Gulf reef fish or Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fisheries must submit an application for such permit to the Regional Administrator (RA) postmarked or hand-delivered no later than September 15, 2003. Application forms are available from the RA;
- Extend the expiration dates of valid or renewable open access permits for these fisheries until November 13, 2003. Beginning November 13, 2003, the only valid charter vessel/headboat permits for Gulf reef fish or Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish are those that have been issued under the moratorium;
- Clarify, as requested by the Gulf Council, a

constraint on issuance of historical captain permits under the moratorium;

- Extend the expiration date of the moratorium to June 16, 2006, to account for the delay in implementation resulting from this revision.

Those persons who previously applied for and NOAA Fisheries advised they were eligible, or those persons who have received a moratorium permit, need not and should not reapply.

Copies of the final rule and supporting documents are available from the same address or by calling 727-570-5305.

This Small Entity Compliance Guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. Any discrepancies between this document and the rule as published in the Federal Register will be resolved in favor of the Federal Register.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>. To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.